

The Spin



Colorado Safe Routes to School State Network

Volume 4, Issue 4

Cruisin' with CDOT

Bike to School Day - are you ready?

May is Bike to School Month in Colorado. The nationally recognized date this year is May 6th.

Colorado has 101 events registered for 2015 Bike to School Day, up from 86 events in 2014. Only California and Florida have more schools signed up at www.walkbiketoschool.org. It's not too late to register your event - you can register anytime up to the end of May.

This simple one-day event builds on the popularity of Walk to School Day held in October each year. Bike to School Day provides an opportunity for schools across Colorado, and the nation, to join together to celebrate and build off of the energy of Earth Day (April) and Colorado Bike Month (June). The events schools plan can lead to great changes such as long-term walking and bicycling programs, new sidewalks and pathways, enforcement of unsafe driving behaviors and needed policy changes at schools and in communities. Improvements that normally take a long time to institute can happen quickly when city officials walk or bicycle to school with students and see firsthand what needs to be done. If you haven't done so yet, register your event today at www.walkbiketoschool.org.

The Colorado SRTS program at CDOT has free materials still available for your events. Fill out

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a [request form](#) and get it in ASAP. They can send the materials to you or get them ready for you to pick-up at their offices in Denver.

Stories from Schools

Looking for ideas for new activities for your Safe Routes to School program?

- Here's a [link](#) to a great article from the Loveland Reporter-Herald on the contest they have launched around crossing guards. For more information, contact Shelley Aschenbrenner, Staff Engineer, City of Loveland at michelle.aschenbrenner@cityofloveland.org
- The City of Durango's Multi Modal division hosted a Safe Routes to School Walk 'n Roll-a-thon parade on April 17th to celebrate the week of Earth Day which they called "Trees and Kids are the Answer." Take a look at the local press coverage of the event [here](#). For more information, contact Sarah Dodson with the Multi Modal Specialist, City of Durango at sarah.dodson@durangogov.org
- The police department in the City of Sheridan is working with Bicycle Colorado to train the Sheridan's Police bike unit to continue education, encouragement, and outreach in the Sheridan schools and community beyond the school year. Read the [blog](#) from Bicycle Colorado's Julia Davenport about this unique program that is reaching out to students and their families in a positive way.

National Crosswalk

Webinars

Mayors' Challenge for Safer People, Safer Streets, Friday, May 22nd, 12:00 - 1:00 PM MDT. Is your mayor engaged with your SRTS program? Hear about how to work with your mayor to support your SRTS coalition and programs. America Walks announced their next free webinar in its second series of 2015. This webinar is part of the "Take Action at the Local Level" webinar series that calls upon individuals to build community and institutional support for walkable design. [Register here](#).

Agency Leadership and Pedestrian Safety, Tuesday, May 5, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM. Hosted by Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center. The webinar will focus on how state, local, and regional agencies have raised the profile of pedestrian safety issues and launched programs to prioritize pedestrian safety as a focus area and influence cultural changes within their agencies and departments. Panelists representing a variety of agencies will describe how pedestrian safety became a priority, the ways in which their departments have begun to shift attention to this issue, and how other agencies can follow a similar path to prioritize pedestrian safety issues. [Register here](#).

Pedaling Programs and Funding Feet

Need a bike rack for your school?

Register a Bike to School Day event at www.walkbiketoschool.org and be entered to win a brand new bike rack from Sportworks. In celebration of National Bike to School Day the [National Center for Safe Routes to School](http://www.nationalcenterforsafeschoolroutes.org), in partnership with Sportworks, will be giving away two bike racks to encourage registration and participation in the annual celebration.



Register and be eligible to win 20 bikes and 20 helmets

The National Center for Safe Routes to School and [Schwinn's Helmets on Heads](http://www.schwinn.com) program are teaming up again to celebrate Bike to School Day with the National Bike to School Day Helmets on Heads Bike Share Giveaway. This second annual Bike Share Giveaway will provide 10 bikes and 20 helmets to 10 schools and community organizations across the US. Individuals, schools and organizations that [register](#) their Bike to School Day event online are eligible to win one of the ten drawings for Schwinn's bike and helmet giveaway. Each giveaway will include 10 bicycles and 20 helmets to be awarded to a winning school. Drawings began on Wednesday April 15th. Winners will be announced weekly on the Safe Routes to School and Schwinn Facebook pages.

Why is SRTS good for rural communities?

In partnership with SRTS practitioners in rural communities around the country, the SRTS National Partnership has developed three new fact sheets to help overcome obstacles and get rural dwellers the health benefits of walking and bicycling. The first provides an introduction to Safe Routes to School, highlighting why Safe Routes to School is good for rural communities ([Rural Communities: Making Safe Routes Work](#)). The second delves into the challenges of Safe Routes to School in rural areas, and highlights successful rural programs and the innovative approaches they've used to overcome hurdles ([Rural Communities: Best Practices and Promising Approaches for Safe Routes](#)). The third takes on rural active transportation generally, setting out an approach for how rural communities can support walking and bicycling more broadly ([Rural Communities: A Two Pronged Approach for Improving Walking and Bicycling](#)).

Requesting trails data

The Colorado Department of Natural Resources has put out a [call for data](#) for a statewide recreational trail map. The interactive trail map is only as useful as the data included in it. They need communities help to gather as much trail data as possible for the initial launch of the trail map in June. If you have questions about this call for data please contact Madeleine West, Colorado DNR, madeleine.west@state.co.us or 303-866-3311 x8666.

Take Action to Protect Federal Funding for Bicycling and Walking

Congress is preparing to take action on a new transportation bill. Given the shortfall of federal transportation dollars, some members of Congress are already questioning why the federal government provides any funding for bicycling and walking.

The SRTS National Partnership is asking for your help to make sure that Congress doesn't cut funding to help local communities build sidewalks, crosswalks, bike lanes, trails and more.

For more information and to take action, [click here](#).

Safe Routes to School Bill Status

The bill to continue funding of SRTS with state money, HB15-1003, passed the Colorado House on a 38-26-1 vote on Monday, April 27. It is now in the Senate with one week left in the legislative session. It is assigned to the State Affairs Committee and will be heard tomorrow, Friday, May 1. Watch for emails from Bicycle Colorado or LiveWell Colorado if support is needed to get this bill passed.

For more information and to take action, [click here](#).

*The purpose of the **Colorado Safe Routes to School State Network** is to facilitate two-way information sharing and connecting among communities and organizations in order to lift up what is working, identify new opportunities and galvanize support for policy and culture change that will increase the number of students walking and biking safely to and from school in every Colorado community.*

[LiveWell Colorado](#) serves as the lead facilitator for the Network. Other members of the Network's steering committee include: [Action for Healthy Kids](#), [Bicycle Colorado](#), [Colorado Department of Transportation \(CDOT\)](#), [Children's Hospital Colorado](#), [Kaiser Permanente](#), [Safe Routes to School National Partnership](#), and subject matter experts.

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